

## Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Hood <u>Peter.Hood@noaa.gov</u> 727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

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## NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on a Proposed Rule to Reallocate Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

Comment Period Ends March 10, 2016

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on a proposed rule that would set 2016 and 2017 Gulf of Mexico red snapper quotas and recreational annual catch targets. These changes would result with the approval of Amendment 28 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico submitted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

This amendment proposes to reallocate the 2016 and 2017 red snapper stock annual catch limit between the commercial and recreational sectors from 51:49 percent to 48.5:51.5 percent, respectively. The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on January 25, 2016, with the comment period ending **March 10, 2016**. NOAA Fisheries encourages constituents to access the proposed rule and Amendment 28 for more complete information

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\_fisheries/gulf\_fisheries/reef\_fish/2013/am28/index.html.

If implemented by NOAA Fisheries, this rulemaking would result in revising the 2016 and 2017:

- Commercial quotas,
- Recreational quotas and annual catch targets,
- Sub-quotas and annual catch targets for the private angling and federal for-hire components within the recreational sector.

The 2016 and 2017 quotas and annual catch targets in millions of pounds gutted weight are shown in the following table.

Sector or	Quota		Annual catch	
component			target	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Commercial	6.768	6.664		
Recreational	7.192	7.076	5.754	5.661
Federal for-	3.042	2.993	2.434	2.395
hire				
Private	4.150	4.083	3.320	3.266
angling				

## **Request for Comments**

NOAA Fisheries must receive comments on this proposed rule no later than March 10, 2016. We will address all comments specifically directed to Amendment 28 or the proposed rule in the final rule. You may obtain electronic copies of Amendment 28 and the proposed rule from the NOAA Fisheries Web site: <a href="http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable-fisheries/gulf-fisheries/reef-fish/2013/am28/index.html">http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable-fisheries/gulf-fisheries/reef-fish/2013/am28/index.html</a> or the e-Rulemaking Portal: <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a>.

## **How to Submit Comments**

You may submit comments on the proposed rule, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2013-0146, by any of the following methods:

**Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <a href="http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0146">http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0146</a>, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

**Mail:** Submit written comments to Peter Hood, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NOAA Fisheries. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <a href="www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).